

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

Applicants' representative thanks Examiner Gerstl for the indications of allowed matter in claims 4, 5, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 23.

SUPPORT FOR THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The allowable matter in steps (C) and (D) from allowed method claim 4 has been incorporated into the apparatus claim 8 per the structure in allowed claim 11. The allowable matter in steps (C) and (D) from allowed claim 17 has been incorporated into the means claim 15. Claims 3 and 10 have been clarified per page 12 lines 3-7 and FIG. 5 of the specification, as originally filed. Thus, no new matter has been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

The rejection of claims 3 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph indefiniteness, has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

Although Applicants' representative does not necessarily agree that claims 3 and 10 are indefinite, the claims have been amended in the interest of advancing prosecution. The claims are generally read in view of the specification. The specification states on page 12, lines 3-7:

A third condition is where one pipeline register buffering invalid data transfers the invalid data to another pipeline register (e.g., the YES branch of decision block 506). Here, the status of one pipeline register is flowed to a receiving pipeline register.

As illustrated in FIG. 5, the YES branch from decision block 506 indicates a sending pipeline register (e.g., said second register) transferring invalid data (e.g., said third operand data) to a receiving pipeline register (e.g., said first register). In doing so, the step 502 will set the status (e.g., the first status) of the receiving register (e.g., said first register) to the invalid state because the receiving register is receiving invalid data (e.g., said third operand data). As such, the claim language as amended (and even without the amendment) may be interpreted that **the sending status** (e.g., said second status for said second register) has the invalid state **prior to** the transfer, not the first status being set prior to the transfer as argued in the Office Action. As such, claims 3 and 10 are fully compliant with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and the rejection should be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 1, 15, 16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mirapuri et al. '294 (hereafter Mirapuri) has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The allowable matter from allowed method claim 17 has been incorporated into claim 15. Since means claim 15 now contains all of the limitations of the allowed method claim 17, claim 15 is fully patentable over the cited reference and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 16 and 21 now depended directly from independent allowed claim 4. Claim 1 has been cancelled. As such, the presently pending invention is fully patentable over the cited reference and the rejection should be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claims 8, 13, 19, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mirapuri in view of Steiss '420 has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mirapuri in view of Sites '167 has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 9 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mirapuri in view of Sites and Steiss has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mirapuri in view of Blomgren '109 has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

The allowable matter from the allowed method claim 4 has been incorporated into the logic element and bus interface unit of

apparatus claim 8. Since apparatus claim 8 now contains all of the limitations of the allowed method claim 4, claim 8 is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

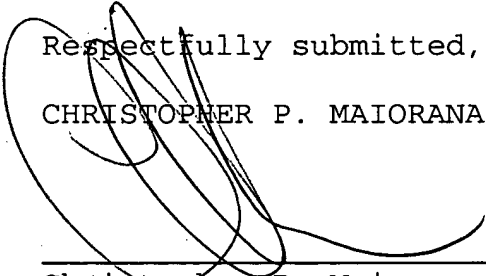
Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 22 depended either directly or indirectly from independent claims 4 or 8, which are respectively allowed and believed to be allowed. As such, the presently pending invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative at 586-498-0670 should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-2252.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: April 13, 2005

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Docket No.: 00-487 / 1496.00053